

Meaning swift and valued runner, the *Kukini* in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.

HICKAM *Kukini*

Serving the Air Force Hawaii Community

HOT TOPIC

**AFAF
completes
record wrap-up**

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Hickam AFB, Hawaii



Photo by Mark Bates

The long road home

Members of a multi-service Honor Guard team transport remains during a repatriation ceremony on the base flightline Tuesday. The remains are believed to be missing Americans lost during the Cold War and Korean War. They were recovered by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, who will transport the remains to their Central Identification Laboratory for forensic identification and eventual return to next of kin.

Commanding Historians

15th Airlift Wing team named PACAF top office

By Maj. Tracey Saiki
Pacific Air Forces Historian Office

Present members of Team Hickam were rewarded for their ability to keep the past alive.

The 15th Airlift Wing History Office was the recipient of the 2004 Pacific Air Forces Excellence in Wing History Programs Award – Multiple Person Office.

Senior Master Sgt. Randy Richardson, Steve Diamond, and Gary Miller, make up the wing history team.

Their management and efforts have achieved excellence in a variety of historical projects and commemorative events.

Their history production was superb, according to PACAF historian officials. A combined 2001-2002 history earned an outstanding rating and was one of the best seen in the command.

In addition, the wing history office made significant progress toward becoming a paper-free office, according to Dr. Tim Keck Pacific Air Forces command historian.

"The history was presented in an all-free electronic format for the first time," Dr. Keck said. "This was indeed a pioneering effort and

reflects the attitude and spirit of our historians at the 15th Airlift Wing," he added.

Sergeant Richardson and Mr. Diamond answered 390 inquiries for information from staff, wing and tenant organizations and the broader community in 2003. Automated procedures were implemented for logging research requests and other projects.

With the inactivation of the 15th Air Base Wing and activation of the 15th Airlift Wing, Sergeant Richardson and Mr. Diamond provided extensive historical research for the wing commander in support of a historic display of artwork in the wing headquarters conference room and took care of the many lineage and honors procedures in renaming squadrons and groups throughout the wing.

Mr. Miller was instrumental in orchestrating the acquisition of a P-40 bronze replica that was dedicated at the base flagpole December 7. He oversaw the development of a Hickam interpretive plan. The plan, funded for more than \$100,000, provided the first effort to showcase the history and heritage of Hickam by establishing a heritage center, self-guided tours of the base, restoration of coastal artillery

emplacements, and restoration of Fort Kamehameha, along with historical development of pre-European sites on the base that were important in native Hawaiian history.

Mr. Miller also conducted preliminary planning for the recovery and restoration of a B-18 that crashed on the island of Hawaii in 1942. This project involved detailed work with the U.S. Army and the Hawaii Air National Guard.

The history team was extensively involved in Operation Homecoming - the base commemoration of the return of POWs to American soil in March 1973.

"Last year, our nation celebrated a hundred years of aviation history. Hickam's history office was indeed busy. Their proactive and creative efforts should be applauded," said Dr. Keck.

"They included recurring articles for the *Kukini* highlighting early military aviation in Hawaii. Additionally, historical exhibits and displays for the Friends and Neighbors base open house held in August and the Centennial of Flight at Kalaeloa Airfield in December informed the people of Hawaii of their rich and significant impact in military aviation history."